



# NEWS RELEASE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## Turnpike widening from Sunset Drive to Bird Road to begin July 8

FORT LAUDERDALE — Construction is scheduled to begin Wednesday, July 8, on the two-mile stretch of Florida's Turnpike extending from north of Sunset Drive/Southwest 72<sup>nd</sup> Street to north of Bird Road/Southwest 40<sup>th</sup> Street in Miami-Dade County.

This segment of the Turnpike will be widened from six to 10 lanes, including Express Lanes similar to those in operation on Interstate 95.

New Turnpike toll gantries will be constructed south of Miller Road and the existing gantries will be removed.

The project entails major improvements to the Bird Road interchange. A new northbound Turnpike exit ramp will be constructed south of the existing ramp. The new ramp will have two lanes that open to three lanes at the intersection with Southwest 117<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

The southbound Turnpike exit to Bird Road will be widened and realigned to provide direct access to Kendall Regional Medical Center.

In addition, westbound Bird Road will be widened from two to three lanes between Southwest 119<sup>th</sup> Court and Southwest 122<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.

Sound barrier walls will be constructed along residential areas on the west side of the Turnpike from Sunset Drive to Miller Road, and along Kendall Regional Medical Center.

The project also includes:

- Asphalt milling and resurfacing
- Major drainage improvements
- Traffic signal improvements on local roads
- Lighting and signage improvements

The \$54.4 million construction contract was awarded to MCM Corporation. It is anticipated the project will be completed by summer 2018.

(more)

While construction is under way, motorists will encounter frequent overnight lane closures on Florida's Turnpike — generally between 9 p.m. and 5 a.m. Sunday night through Thursday night.

Motorists may also run into lane closures on local roads. Major traffic impacts are anticipated on Bird Road and Southwest 117<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

For more information about this project, call 1-800-749-PIKE or visit [www.FloridasTurnpike.com](http://www.FloridasTurnpike.com). Drivers may dial 5-1-1 for real-time traffic information or visit [www.FL511.com](http://www.FL511.com) before traveling or follow @fl511\_Turnpike on Twitter.

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